



# Rockville Reports

JANUARY 2014 • VOL. 60 #1

• A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE •



Rockville is teaming up with Burlington Coat Factory's Gaithersburg location for the drive.

## Make Someone's Winter Warm 7th Annual Citywide Coat Drive Taking Donations from Jan. 2-9

It's cold outside, and people in need could use your help.

The Lincoln Park Community Center has teamed up with Burlington Coat Factory's Gaithersburg location for an annual coat drive that will be collecting coats in new or excellent condition. Coats will be distributed countywide to families in need.

The Rockville community's generosity was felt widely last year as more than 650 coats were donated – a healthy increase over the 2011 donations. Organizers and community partners would like to match or exceed last year's donations.

Drop off coats (any size) from Thursday, Jan. 2 through Thursday, Jan. 9 at one of the following locations:

- Lincoln Park Community

Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

- Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martin's Lane.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

The City of Rockville would like to thank organizations that partner with the City to support the coat drive. If your company or organization would like to support the drive, either with donated coats or a financial contribution, contact Yvette Yeboah, supervisor of the Lincoln Park Community Center, at 240-314-8783.

For more information about the drive, call 240-314-8780. ✚

## King Day Ceremony to Celebrate 'Courage Through the Years'

The City marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day with performances and awards recognizing Rockville residents who are carrying on King's legacy.

The 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 20 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The Finest IMPACT! Troupe, singer Adele-Clarice, hip hop artist Christylez Bacon and Soul in Motion and Vision Contemporary Dance Ensemble will perform.

The featured speaker, Dr. Michael W. Nettles, will deliver a speech incorporating this year's theme of "courage through the years."

"It takes courage to pursue individual goals and freedoms and inclusion for all people," said celebration organizer Janet Kelly, City staff liaison to Rockville's Human Rights Commission. "The program will encourage people to reflect upon their own acts of courage."

The celebration also features the presentation of two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award will be presented to a Rockville high school student who has worked to fulfill



Enjoy diverse performances.

King's dream. The F. Michael Taff Award will be presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped improve the quality of the lives of people with disabilities.

The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a can of food to donate to a local food bank.

For information about access, call the City's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108. For more information about the celebration, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov). Also, see the City's website, which features video from the 2013 celebration at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk). ✚

## Rockville Facilities to Close for Two Holidays in January

*Recycling and Refuse  
Collection Dates to  
Change*

Rockville City Hall and all City facilities will be closed for New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 20.

Recycling and refuse collection dates will shift during the two holiday weeks. The week of New Year's Day, only Monday, Dec. 30, and Tuesday, Dec. 31, collection will occur as scheduled. Other collections will be a day later than usual.

Collection will shift for all residents the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Monday: No Change

Tuesday: No Change

Wednesday ➔ Thursday

Thursday ➔ Friday

Friday ➔ Saturday

### MLK DAY HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Monday ➔ Tuesday

Tuesday ➔ Wednesday

Wednesday ➔ Thursday

Thursday ➔ Friday

Friday ➔ Saturday

For more information on holiday collection schedules, call 240-314-8568 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse).

The following list outlines the schedule for City of Rockville facilities on Monday, Jan. 20:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center will be closed.
- F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre will be closed.

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## City Staff Recognized for Years of Service and High Performance

Rockville honored employees at the City Employee Awards Ceremony last month. Members of the Mayor and Council and City Manager Barb Matthews helped congratulate employees for high performance and varying lengths of service.

Karen Lumpkin was recognized for 40 years of service to

the City of Rockville. Lumpkin grew up in Rockville and attended the University of Maryland. She began her career with the City as a college student, supervising special needs activities and girls' basketball. She is currently the senior citizen recreation coordinator for the City's Department

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Karen Lumpkin (left), senior citizen recreation coordinator, was recognized for her 40 years of service to the City of Rockville.

## Get Into It...

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**Plan Now for  
an Awesome  
Summer**

*Learn all about  
Rockville summer  
camps.*

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**Pay By Phone  
Parking in Town Center  
is about to get easier.**

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**In Your  
Neighborhood  
Get involved in  
your community  
by attending a  
neighborhood meeting.**

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
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Rockville, Maryland  
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## ROCKVILLE CAMPS INFO.

### Find the Camp Guide Online and at Centers

Rockville's summer camp guide is available now at [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps) and at the following locations beginning in early January:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center
- Rockville community recreation centers (Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook)
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center
- Rockville City Hall
- Rockville Memorial Library (21 Maryland Ave.) and Twinbrook Library (202 Meadow Hall Dr.)
- Your child's backpack (sent home through Rockville elementary schools)

### What's New in 2014

You spoke, and we listened. This year Rockville camps will offer early bird discounts and flex time. Take advantage of these new features:

**Early Bird Discount:** Receive a \$10 discount off each registration **between Jan. 21 and March 18** for the following camps: Crafty Kids, Summer Blast, All-Star Sports and Multi Sports and Games.

**Flex Time:** Rockville camps will now give parents a little extra time. Campers can arrive up to 15 minutes early and camps will stay open 15 minutes extra to allow for drop-offs and pick-ups.

### Some Camps Offer Transportation, Extended Day Options

Many Rockville camps offer convenient bus transportation, provided on Montgomery County Public School buses, from many of Rockville's neighborhoods, as well as extended day options.

Buses pick up campers at designated stops between 8 and 8:40 a.m. and return children between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m. Bus pick-up and drop-off stops, which are not staffed, include:

- College Gardens Elementary School (ES), 1700 Yale Pl.
- Elwood Smith Community Center/Park, 601 Harrington Rd.
- Fallsmead ES, 1800 Greenplace Terrace
- King Farm Park, 401 Watkins Pond Blvd.
- Lakewood ES, 2534 Lindley Terrace
- Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.
- Montrose Community Center/Park, 451 Congressional Ln.
- Ritchie Park ES, 1514 Dunster Rd.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.
- Welsh Park, corner of Martins Lane and Mannakee St.

Learn more on page 19 of the camp guide. Before and after care: Early Risers and Home Stretch are available for most camps throughout the summer. College Gardens ES's Early Risers runs 7:30-8:45 a.m.; Home Stretch runs 3-6 p.m.

Several specialty camps also offer extended day options, including Rockville Express Baseball camps, Cheerleading, Camp Challenger, Kidz Time and Great Writers and Players. Find details and extended day program fees in the camp guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps).

For more information on transportation or extended day options, call 240-314-8620.

### Payment Plan Option, Financial Assistance Available

All Rockville summer camps offer the option to pay in full at the time of registration or use the City's payment plan.

The plan allows registrants to pay in four equal payments, with a quarter of the fee due at the time of registration and the remaining payments due on April 1, May 1, and June 2. Early registrations allow more time to pay. If you register in April, half of the fee will be due; in May, 75 percent of the fee will be due. A payment plan is not available after June 2.

Financial assistance for youth program fees is available through the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund for qualifying city residents. Call 240-314-8620.

# Let Us Rock Your Summer

Rockville offers more than 65 camps at a great value from June 16 through Aug. 22. Take advantage of traditional and specialty camps with a variety of themes, including sports, arts, crafts, nature, science, rocketry, skateboarding, swimming, travel and more. Camps are open to all, ages 3-16, with single- and multi-week options available. Learn more here and in the camp guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps).

**June 16 - Aug. 22**

## Camps Highlights for 2014

Rockville offers more than 65 camps close to home where your kids will thrive in a safe and fun environment. Discounts will be offered for those who register early. With more than 100 sessions of camps offered by the City of Rockville this summer, here are a few in the spotlight for 2014:

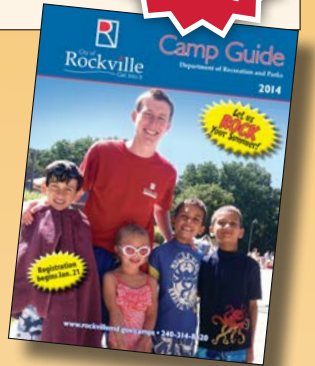
- New camps this year include **Summer Blast Camp**, which offers one or several weeks of games, crafts, sports, swimming and special events. It's all-day fun, 8:30 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.
- **Kidz Time** will keep kids moving all day with hiking, karate, obstacle courses, swimming and more. Campers will learn about nutrition by preparing and eating their own healthy snacks.
- At the **Girls Field Hockey/Lacrosse Camp** players at all



levels participate in skills development at Welsh Park. Campers will be divided according to ability to take part in fun scrimmages while learning how to play the game better.

- **Rockville Science Center Camps** include Robotics, Space Science and Astronomy and Geology and Exploration.
- Other specialty camps include **Swim for Skateboarders Camp** and **Thriving Kids Yoga Camp**.

The Camp Guide is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps) and registration opens Jan. 21 at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov). An early bird discount is available until March 18. Camps fill quickly, so be sure to register early.



### How to Register

Registration begins **Jan. 21**. Camps start **June 16** and run through **Aug. 22**. You can register one of the following ways:

- online at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov);
- by fax to 240-314-8659;
- by mail to: Dept. of Recreation and Parks, City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville MD 20850 (make check payable to City of Rockville);
- or in person 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at one of the following locations: –

- City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.
- Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Ln.
- Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr.
- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd.
- Community centers: (Lincoln Park, 357 Frederick Ave.; Thomas Farm, 700 Falls Grove Dr.; or Twinbrook, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.)



## Camp Leaders Team Up to Provide Kids with Memorable Experiences

The City of Rockville's summer camp staff is selected for their experience, enthusiasm, desire and ability to work well with children.

Many camp leaders start working with Rockville summer camps as teenagers and grow into leadership positions. Katie Ellis, a senior at the University of Dayton, spent summers during high school working at Rockville summer camps. She continued as a substitute director and then as a director in the summers of 2011 and 2012.

"A lot of my friends had internships at big companies, and that sounded cool, but I feel like I had so much more of a fun summer working with kids," Ellis said. "I learned about leadership, dealing with large groups and working with other staff members. It was very enjoyable for me."

Ellis takes part in staff orientation each summer, where goals for the camps are described by City staff. Ellis said some of the best rewards of working with Rockville summer camps have been simple: a flower given to her by a camper, or a drawing another camper made especially for her.

"I always go home and tell my family," she said. "I think it's very special."

Staff training covers safety procedures, program plan-

ning, skills development and techniques in working with children. Staff members are certified in CPR and First Aid and undergo background checks as part of the hiring process.

Many staff members have degrees in education, are public school teachers and often are brought up through the ranks of the camp program, as Ellis was. Each camp director plans activities, mentors new camp staff and guides them as they become skilled leaders.

"The opportunity for camp staff to learn and develop new skills while having a blast with campers is one of the main reasons they return year after year," said Jan Golden, recreation program supervisor for the City of Rockville.

More than 50 staff members and more than 100 leaders-in-training volunteers comprise the camp staff in a given summer. Many of the staff hold leadership positions at their schools in activities from clubs to athletics, and spend their free time volunteering. Rockville camps typically have a 70 percent retention rate with staff members from year to year.

For more information on Rockville summer camps, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps) or call 240-314-8620. ✦



**Katie Ellis (left).**

[www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps)



# Mayor & Council



## Mayor and Council Hear FY 2015 Budget Preview

*Public Hearings Tentatively Scheduled for March and April*

Residents got their first look at Rockville's fiscal year 2015 budget as the Mayor and Council heard a preview from City staff and discussed their vision for the upcoming year during meetings in December.

A more detailed budget preview is scheduled for Feb. 10, with the formal introduction of the City Manager's proposed budget scheduled for March 17. The Mayor and Council are tentatively scheduled to hold public hearings and worksessions on March 31, April 7, April 21 and April 28, with final adoption scheduled for May 12.

The adopted operating budget for fiscal year 2014, which runs through June 30, totals \$113.9 million. The adopted FY14 general fund budget, which accounts for most of the City's daily operations, is \$69 million.

Property taxes are the largest source of revenue for the general fund. Pending Mayor and Council direction for FY15, staff expects to propose that the property tax rate remain flat for the seventh consecutive year, at \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed value.

Income tax revenues remain strong despite the recent recession. The FY15 revenue estimate is about \$12 million, or about \$600,000 more than originally forecast. City staff is monitoring these revenues and could ask the Mayor and Council to increase the budget during the second half of FY14 if revenues remain strong.

Scheduled rate increases for each of the City's utility funds would result in a monthly increase of \$6.35 for the average residential utility bill, or 6.5 percent annually.

The recommendations would mean:

- an 8 percent increase for water;
- a 6.1 percent increase for sewer;
- a 20 percent increase in the ready-to-serve charge (split evenly between water and sewer);
- a 12.5 percent increase in the stormwater management fee;
- and a 1.9 percent increase in the refuse rate.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Dept. at 240-314-8400. ✚



*This stormwater management project in College Gardens won a statewide award in 2011.*

## City Sets 2014 State Legislative Priorities

The Mayor and Council adopted the City's 2014 State Legislative Priorities on Nov. 18. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton presented Rockville's priorities to the Montgomery County Delegation at the Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing on Nov. 20. The City's priorities are to:

- Restore municipal Highway User Revenues to address a critical infrastructure funding gap created by state budget cuts in recent years.
- Advocate for increased school construction funding from the state to address overcrowded and aging Montgomery County Public School facilities in Rockville and across the county.
- Ensure that new pro-

posals regarding speed cameras do not negatively impact successful programs like Rockville's.

- Monitor legislation related to stormwater fees to ensure that the City's fee and program are protected.
- Closely track communications tax reform legislation to ensure the preservation of municipal cable franchise fees and public education capital grants, and municipal franchising and rights-of-way management authority.

The 2014 General Assembly runs from Jan. 8 to April 7 in Annapolis. For more details on these state legislative priorities, contact Linda Moran at [lmoran@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:lmoran@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8115. ✚

## MEETINGS & DROP IN SCHEDULE

All general sessions, worksessions and public hearings are televised on Rockville channel 11 and are available on streaming video at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Community Forum" portion at most meetings. Meetings are at 7 p.m. and are subject to change.

- Jan. 6 (Monday)
- Jan. 13 (Monday)
- Jan. 27 (Monday)

The mayor and one councilmember are available to meet with residents for drop-in discussions from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280 is appreciated. Along with Mayor Newton, the councilmember scheduled is: Tom Moore on Jan. 13.

## IN BRIEF

### Mayor and Council to Consider Art for Police Station Annex

The City of Rockville is in the process of selecting artwork to adorn the façade of the Police Department's annex building on Montgomery Avenue, and collected public comments on the finalists' proposals in recent weeks.

Proposals and recommendations from the Artist Nomination Committee and the Cultural Arts Commission, as well as the public comments, will be presented to the Mayor and Council at their Jan. 6 meeting for consideration and final award of the public art commission.

The four finalists' proposals have been on display in the atrium at City Hall and can be viewed online with descriptions at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

The Recreation and Parks Department and the Rockville Cultural Arts Commission began searching for an artist to create a work of art for the façade last April. The "Incorporation of Works of Art in Public Architecture" ordinance requires that one percent of the construction cost of City of Rockville construction projects be set aside for works of art.

For more information on the art selection process, please contact Betty Wisda at 240-314-8681 or [bwisda@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:bwisda@rockvillemd.gov).

### Post-Election Wrap Up Meetings Hosted by the Board of Supervisors of Elections

#### YOU ARE INVITED:

**WHAT:** Election 2013 Wrap Up  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-noon and Thursday, Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.



Please confirm your attendance in advance by calling the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280 or by emailing Sara Taylor Ferrell at [sferrell@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:sferrell@rockvillemd.gov).

Attendees may want to review Chapter 8 of the Rockville City Code to understand the Board's responsibilities. Chapter 8 is available within the 2013 Candidate Information Election Packet at [www.rockvillemd.gov/electionpacket](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/electionpacket). You may also request a copy from the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280.

### Citizen's Forum is Now 'Community Forum'

The Mayor and Council recently changed the name of a popular feature of their regular meetings, Citizen's Forum, to Community Forum.

The forum is open to anyone who wants to speak to the Mayor and Council on any matter for up to three minutes and its format will not change. In changing the name, the Mayor and Council hopes to be more inclusive of all who may want to speak, including citizens and non-citizens, residents and non-residents, businesses, organizations and others.

You can sign up to speak at Community Forum by calling the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Priority will be given to those who sign up in advance and those who are speaking on an agenda item.



## Focus on: Human Rights Commission

Appointed by the Mayor and Council, Rockville's Human Rights Commission (HRC) is an 11-member group of volunteers that promotes diversity and improves human relations within the city through a variety of services and educational programs.

To ensure equal treatment, free from discrimination, for all people who live, visit or work in the City of Rockville, the HRC hosts public forums on particular human rights issues. To promote and facilitate resolutions to

conflicts, the HRC provides free mediation services to people in the City who may find themselves in conflict with a neighbor, landlord, tenant, friend co-worker, supervisor, organization or business. Complaints that are determined to be discriminatory may be heard by the commission.

The commission also works to promote global thinking. About two years ago, the HRC supported legislation that was adopted by the Mayor and Council to stop investment in Sudan.

In addition to protecting

rights and reducing conflict, the HRC sponsors educational and cultural programs in the City, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. (See page 1 for more on this event.)

The commission also offers diversity leadership programs for high school students in Rockville and encourages residents to take advantage of their right to vote by hosting voter registration days during election years.

To get students to  
*continued from pg. 4...*

## FY13 Financial Reports Available

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for fiscal year 2013 are at [www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports). The PAFR explains, in layman's terms, information in the CAFR, the City's audited financial report.

The Government Finance Officers Association awarded Rockville a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its CAFR for fiscal year 2012, which ended June 30, 2012. This was the 23rd consecutive year that the City has achieved this prestigious award.



## Rockville's Fitness Centers Can Help You Reach Your Goals in 2014

Get fit and improve your overall health in the new year at one of Rockville's fitness centers.

Five facilities are available to the public at affordable rates at the Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and the Rockville Senior Center (open to people age 60 and older).

This winter, some participants in the Dawson's Get Well Challenge used Rockville fitness centers to stay active this winter. The health contest (of which the City of Rockville was one of 13 partnering organizations) also allowed participants to sample classes offered by the Recreation and Parks Department. Learn more about the challenge at [www.dawsonsmarket.com/get-well-challenge-2013](http://www.dawsonsmarket.com/get-well-challenge-2013).

Winter registration for fitness classes is underway and classes start in early January. Find classes and register at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov).

Find fitness center rates, hours, personal training services, and more at:

- Lincoln Park: [www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc)
- Thomas Farm: [www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm)
- Twinbrook: [www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook)
- Senior: [www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter)
- Swim and Fitness: [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter)

For more information, call 240-314-8620.

## Train at a Higher Level at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center

Register Now to Compete in the Dash and Splash

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center can help you continue your "weekend warrior" status or start a new hobby that ends in something a little more serious – triathlons.

The center offers swim classes, triathlete-level cycle and fitness training, certified trainers and numerous fitness machines and treadmills.

Train like a pro with Masters Swimming sessions, Triathlon Swim Clinics and Triathlon Endurance Development. Stay off the icy roads this winter by taking Indoor Cycle Training to get your spinning fix.

Need a goal? On Feb. 22-23, participate in the Dash and Splash duathlon. This event involves a 20-minute walk/run on a treadmill followed by a 20-minute swim. Winners in each age group will be ranked by total distance logged. The Dash and Splash is open to competitors age 15 and older and all fitness levels. Registration is \$20; \$15 for seniors.

For registration and further information visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide), [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) or call 240-314-8750.

## Help Rockville Police Officers Give Back to the Community

Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) officers are getting ready to brave the cold waters of the Chesapeake Bay for a good cause. The 18th annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge benefits Special Olympics Maryland.

The event takes place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Sandy Point State Park.

This is the fifth year that RCPD officers will be taking the plunge. RCPD has raised more than \$18,000 for Special Olympics Maryland over the years. This year's team will consist of more than 10 officers and civilian staff plunging into the bay, including K-9 Boomer.

To sign up and participate in this year's plunge, visit [www.plungemd.com](http://www.plungemd.com). To contribute to the Rockville Officers' plunge team, visit the site and search for "Rockville City Police."

Rockville police support Special Olympics Maryland throughout the year and have sent representatives to the winter and summer games as medal presenters. To learn more about the RCPD, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/police](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police).

# In The Community

## Successes of 2013 Propel Rockville into a Bright Future

In 2013, Rockville was named the 10th best place to live in the country in a national study. Here's a look back at this and other highlights of the year:



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The City collected almost 650 coats for local distribution to families in need in 2013 – about 200 more than in 2012. The Holiday Drive fed more than 530 families at Thanksgiving while hundreds more received gifts of toys and essential items during December. *See page 1 to learn how to get involved with this year's coat drive.*

### HOMETOWN TRADITIONS

The City hosts annual events that bring residents and visitors from across the region to celebrate Rockville's "hometown feel." The 25th annual Hometown Holidays brought about 60,000 visitors to Rockville Town Center over a crisp Memorial Day weekend; almost 5,000 attendees topped off their summer at the Uncorked Wine and Music Festival in August; and in October, 10,000 people enjoyed the 52nd annual Antique and Classic Car Show on the grounds of the Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park.



### HIGH MARKS IN QUALITY OF LIFE

The biennial Citizens Survey was conducted last year and some highlights include: 91 percent of respondents described the "overall quality of life" in the City of Rockville as excellent or good, while 87 percent rated the "overall quality of services in Rockville" as excellent or good. As a testament to



these results, Rockville was also ranked as the 10th best place to live out of 100 cities across the nation, according to a study by the website Livability.com.

### NEW BEGINNINGS

Several grand openings took place in 2013. Rockville is now home to the Choice Hotels International Headquarters in Rockville Town Center; a new bathhouse at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center; and several stations

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## Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Are Underway

*Project Will Ensure Continued Water Safety, Compliance with EPA Rule*

Upgrades to the City's Water Treatment Plant that began in December will ensure continued high-quality water service to Rockville residents and businesses and put the plant in compliance with a federal rule aimed at strengthening public health protections.

The plant is along the banks of the Potomac River in Potomac. Construction of the \$6.8 million project will be performed by a contractor as part of Rockville's Capital Improvements Program. Construction is expected to be completed by June 2015.

The upgrades, approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment, are required to comply with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule that addresses byproducts created when disinfectants react with naturally occurring organic compounds in water. The byproducts may pose health risks.

The upgrades include:

- A new chemical feed sys-

tem, which will add ferric chloride to coagulate organic compounds for removal from the river water.

- A gravity thickener, which will increase the capacity to remove solids from the plant.
- An air scour system, which will improve the backwash process efficiency and performance of the existing filter system. Funding for the air scour system – totaling \$868,000 – must be approved by the Mayor and Council in the fiscal year 2015 budget.

Once the upgrades are complete, residents should not notice a difference in the taste of their water. In recent years, the City has reduced the amount of chlorine added during the treatment process. Adjusting the chlorine amount also helps reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts.

For more information on Rockville's water system, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/water](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/water). ❀

## Academy Offers a 'How To' For Doing Business in the City

Businesses and people interested in starting a business in Rockville can learn more about what the City has to offer through the Rockville Business Academy.

The free, two-day program will be held 8:30-10:30 a.m. Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. City staff will lead the sessions, which will include light refreshments.

Sessions will cover Rockville's demographics, sign ordinance, commercial code enforcement, environmental practices and more.

The program is offered through the Neighborhood Resources Division in partnership with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

For more information or to register, call Hjarman Cordero at 240-314-8344 or [hcordero@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:hcordero@rockvillemd.gov). ❀

## Human Rights Commission

*continued from pg. 3...*

think about global issues that have an impact on them, the commission offers a multimedia contest. To learn more about the contest, contact Janet Kelly, HRC staff liaison, at 240-314-8316 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov).

Residents are invited to attend HRC meetings, which are held the fourth Wednesday of the month, except in August and November (no meetings) and December (first

Wednesday of the month).

Rockville's boards and commissions provide the Mayor and Council with informed opinions, thoughts and ideas that shape the City. Anyone interested in serving on a citizen board or commission may write to the Mayor and Council, c/o City Clerk, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. Fill out and submit an Expression of Interest Form online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280. ❀



# News You Can Use

## INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

### New Town Center Meters Allow Drivers to 'Call to Park'

MobileNOW! Uses Technology to Help Motorists Feed the Meter

Motorists looking for parking in parts of Rockville Town Center no longer have to search their pockets or reach for spare change in the cup holder.

In December, the City debuted parking meters that allow users to pay using a phone number, computer, tablet or smartphone application.

The MobileNOW! meters don't display time remaining on a parking session, though City parking enforcement officers using the MobileNOW! app will know if a session has expired. Users will know as well, by registering for an account that allows them to log in to see how much time is remaining and to have a notification sent to their mobile device when their session is about to expire.

Users pay a 35-cent convenience fee per parking session. They may extend a parking session at the same space using their mobile device without paying an additional convenience fee.

Users who leave with time still on the meter are able to end their parking session and are only charged for the time that they were parked. The minimum parking session is 15 minutes. The maximum varies by the location of the meter and ranges from one hour to 12 hours. The rate on most meters is 15 minutes for 25 cents.

Stickers on the meters indicate which are MobileNOW! meters. The meters will be located first in Town Center and then in residential neighborhoods near the Rockville and Twinbrook Metro stations.

Need a use for that spare change? No worries: MobileNOW! meters still accept coins and meter cards.

Learn more about the City's newest way to pay for parking at [www.rockvillemd.gov/parking](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/parking).



### Winter Weather: Be Prepared Like Public Works

Winter is here and Rockville's Department of Public Works (DPW) is prepared to handle emergency weather situations.

Road crews, equipment, salt, and beet juice and supplies are ready to respond to a weather emergency.

You can prepare for winter weather just like DPW. Check your supplies, snow shovels, and make sure you have ice-melting supplies.

"Don't wait until the weatherman says it's going to be a big one," said DPW Director Craig Simoneau. "If you have a snow blower, make sure that it's ready to go."

Simoneau also urged residents to get to know the City's snow regulations. Snow on sidewalks, driveways and entrances must be removed by the adjacent property owner, occupant, community association or business in the following time frames:

#### SNOW REMOVAL TIMEFRAME:

Up to 3 in. → 24 hours

3-9 in. → 48 hours

10 in. or more → 72 hours

Sign up for emergency alerts via Alert Rockville at [www.rockvillemd.gov/connections](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/connections). For more on winter preparedness in Rockville, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather).

For the latest updates on closures and the weather's effect on programs and facilities, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/weather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/weather). You'll also find updates posted on the Rockville's Facebook page (City of Rockville, City Hall), as well as on Twitter at @Rockville411.

## Holiday Drive 2013



### ROCKVILLE'S HOLIDAY DRIVE MADE THANKSGIVING AND THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY SEASON SPECIAL FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED...

The drive provided Thanksgiving meals to 550 households. Another 103 seniors at the Heritage House on Dawson Avenue attended a Thanksgiving luncheon. More than 500 households received assistance during December, including more than 1,000 children who received toys or a gift card. The December drive saw a 12 percent increase from 2012 in the number of referrals. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive). Volunteers included students from St. Mary's Catholic School.

## Apply for a County Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Montgomery County tax credits are available for Rockville properties located within designated historic districts.

The City of Rockville's Historic District Commission (HDC) participates in the county's preservation tax credit program to assist owners of historic properties with their yearly exterior expenses. Structural repairs and pruning of trees away from a historic structure may also be included.

Ordinary maintenance, defined as work undertaken to repair existing building elements with the same materials and design, does not require prior HDC approval. All other exterior work must have prior HDC approval to be eligible. The HDC reviews tax credit applications and makes a recommendation to the county to approve or disallow the proposed tax credit.

### Applicants should remember the following:

- This program evaluates the work completed by

the applicant in the 2013 calendar year.

- Maintenance work does not require prior HDC approval.
- Include photos documenting conditions before and after work is undertaken with your application.
- Only exterior work is reviewed.
- Your property tax ob-

ligation for 2014-2015 will be reduced by 25 percent of the approved expenditures.

To learn more about the HDC and this tax credit program at the county, state, or federal level, or

to get an application, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/historic](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/historic). Applications should be postmarked by April 1 and mailed to the Historic Preservation Division, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md., 20850. Reviews will be scheduled by the HDC in May and June 2014.

For more information, contact Robin Ziek, historic preservation planner, at 240-314-8236 or [rziek@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rziek@rockvillemd.gov).



An historic home in Rockville.

## Go Green and Give Back to the Environment This Season

Recycling as much as you can is important, and Rockville's collection system makes it easy. You can even recycle your Christmas tree.

Rockville will collect holiday trees as part of its regular recycling collection.

Residents should place cut trees at the curb for pick-up on regular recycling days after removing all ornaments, lighting wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged.

The trees will become mulch at the Montgomery County Recycling Center. The mulch is available for free, year-round and can be picked up at the recycling center next to the Shady Grove Transfer Station at 16105 Frederick Road.

Unwanted artificial trees

## ROCKVILLE ROCKS RECYCLING!

NO SORTING NECESSARY

ROCKVILLE

MIXED PAPER & CARDBOARD

MISCELLANEOUS PLASTICS

TIN, METAL & ALUMINUM FOIL

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RECYCLABLE ITEMS, VISIT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMd.GOV/RECYCLING-REFUSE](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMd.GOV/RECYCLING-REFUSE)

should be dismantled and placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year or taken to the transfer station.

#### Bonus recycling tips:

- Swap your current wheeled recycling and refuse carts for larger or smaller ones at

any time, free of charge. If you often run out of room in your current recycling cart, call 240-314-8568 and request a larger size; or email your request to [refuse@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:refuse@rockvillemd.gov).

- Rockville recycles all empty aerosol spray cans, including whip cream, air fresheners, cooking oils and hair spray cans. Just make sure the can is

empty and place it in your brown recycling cart for collection.

For more information on recycling and refuse service and holiday tree collection, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse), or to make a bulk collection appointment, call 240-314-8568. For more environmental tips throughout the year, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment).





This mixed media collage, along with other paintings, will be on display in January.

## Glenview Exhibits the Pate Painters this January

Free Month-long Exhibit Opens Jan. 5

Escape the cold weather this month and explore the artwork of the Pate Painters at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

Paintings done in watercolor, gouache, acrylic, pastel, pencil and oil will be on display for the January exhibit. Meet the artists at the exhibit's free opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 5, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The artwork will be on display for the public Jan. 5-24.

Also on Sunday, Jan. 5, stop by the Glenview Mansion Conservatory on the first floor for a free showing of "Gettysburg: The Musical!" presented by Billy Finch. As part of the mansion's regular Sunday Afternoon Concert Series, this original production, complete with impersonations and impertinence, will take place at 2 p.m.

Admission to the gallery is free. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m. The gallery is closed on official City holidays and is wheelchair accessible.

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is housed on the second floor of the historic mansion, located at 603 Edmonston Dr. The gallery hosts monthly exhibits featuring the work of Rockville visual artists and performing groups.

For more information on the Pate Painters exhibit or other monthly shows, contact Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or email [jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov).

## Apply Now to Exhibit Art at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

The City of Rockville celebrates its commitment to the arts through programs that reflect the diversity and vitality of the community. It is with great pride that the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery continues to showcase the finest artists in the region. The process of selecting art for 2015 exhibits is now underway.

**Eligibility:** Open to all artists living and/or working in the Washington metropolitan area. Note: Former Glenview Mansion Art Gallery exhibitors must wait two years before reapplying (2013 gallery exhibitors may apply in 2015 for opportunities in 2016.). Exhibitors in 2012 are eligible to apply for this round of entries.

**Selection process:** All submissions will be reviewed by gallery staff and an esteemed jury panel consisting of artists and art professionals. The panel will select artists and create exhibits to be placed on the 2015 calendar schedule by the gallery director. Exhibits may feature more than one artist.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Entries due by Jan. 19
- Exhibit selection by Feb. 7
- Artist notification by Feb. 11

Find terms for exhibiting, insurance information, application details and more, by visiting [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and searching "call for entries." For more information, contact Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or [jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov).

# Arts & Entertainment

## Let Us Entertain You at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Take in a play or concert this January at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Starting Jan. 24, Rockville Little Theatre will present 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestly. In this drama, set in 1912, a family is visited by a mysterious inspector. It becomes clear that they are implicated in a young woman's death. This exciting "whodunnit" will keep you guessing to the very end.

Tickets are \$18 for adults; seniors (62 and over) and students (with valid ID) are \$16. Shows are 8 p.m. on Jan. 24, 25, 31 and Feb. 1 and 2 p.m. on Jan. 26 and Feb. 2. For tickets, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).

Hear what the kids in Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra have been busy learning this year at their annual winter concert. Enjoy the energy, talent and excitement of Rockville's youth at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28. This concert is free and open to the public.



Students in the youth orchestra perform Jan. 28.

Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra consists of approximately 35 students in grades four through nine and offers a unique opportunity for dedicated instrumental music students to further their abilities. For more information on this concert and the Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/arts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/arts).

The theatre is located in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr. ✚

## Rockville Successes of 2013

continued from pg. 4...

of Capital Bikeshare's expansion into Montgomery County. The City also unveiled its redesigned website for more user-friendliness and ease of access to residents.



### TIES STRENGTHENED

The City established a sister city relationship with Pinneberg, Germany in 1957. Since then, the relationship has thrived with multiple cultural exchanges. In 2013, Pinneberg dancers visited the City over the summer while Pinneberg Mayor Urte Steinberg and a delegation of 14 visi-

tors came to Rockville in October. Rockville is also continuing to work towards a formal sister city relationship with Friendship City Jiaying, China. For more information on these milestones, visit [www.rocknet.org/community/sistercities](http://www.rocknet.org/community/sistercities).

### NEW LEADERSHIP

Citizens of Rockville voted a new Mayor and Council into office in the 2013 City election: Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and councilmembers Beryl L. Feinberg, Tom Moore, Virginia D. Onley and Julie Palakovich Carr. The body will serve Rockville for the next two years. The Financial Advisory Board was also established in 2013. The board will advise the Mayor and Council on financial matters in the City. ✚



**15TH ANNUAL**  
**Glenview Mansion**  
**Bridal Expo**

Sunday, January 26, 2014 • Noon - 4 p.m.  
 \$5 at the door the day of the event

Informal Modeling by Curvy Girls Bridal of Fairfax, Virginia  
 Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park  
 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville

*More than* 30 VENDOR EXHIBITS AND SAMPLES ON DISPLAY...  
*Including* CATERING, CAKES, PHOTOGRAPHY, MUSIC, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS & MORE...  
*Informal modeling* FEATURING THE LATEST GOWN STYLES AND ACCESSORIES...

 **Rockville**  
Call 240-314-8660

[www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview) • 240-314-8660

## City Invites Public to Open House at Ballet Center

Rockville invested \$90,000 in renovations at the City's Rockcrest Ballet Center last summer.

The improvements included major roof repair, new paint inside and outside, masonry repairs, lighting upgrades, flooring, cosmetic treatments and expanded changing areas. The project was accomplished through the work of contractors and City facilities staff.

Aspiring dancers, instructors and families are welcome at an open house at Rockcrest from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Jan. 11. See the facility, meet our instructors and watch your children participate in demo classes.

All of the instructors trained with Rockville Civic Ballet Artistic Director Claudia Mangan and also dance in the civic ballet. Ballet classes are held throughout the year for dancers age 3 to adult at Rockcrest and other community centers throughout the city.

During the four-month Rockcrest renovation project, classes and rehearsals continued uninterrupted in a temporary dance stu-



Rockville ballet classes are open to ages 3 to adult.

dio in the Elwood Smith Community Center in the Hungerford neighborhood. Dancers returned to Rockcrest in late October and many of the more than 130 participants said they were thrilled with the improved facility.

Consider registering your youngsters for a ballet class this year. Find class details in the seasonal recreation guides at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide). For more information, call 240-314-8620. ✚



## FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery** **GM**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre** **FSF**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center** **CC**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road. Note: Registration required, register online at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8770.
- **Rockville Senior Center** **SR**, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8800. **CH**
- **Rockville City Hall**, 111 Maryland Ave. Call 240-314-5000.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find something that interests you at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide).

## January

**5-24 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Exhibit** Artwork of the Pate Painters will be on display for January's free exhibit. Meet the artists at the opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 5, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. See page 6 for more information. **GM**

**5 Sunday Afternoon Concert Series** January's free concert will feature "Gettysburg: The Musical!" presented by Billy Finch. This original production takes place at the conservatory on the first floor of the mansion at 2 p.m. See page 6 for more information. **GM**

**9 Nature Tots – Woodpeckers (Adult/child)** Discover nature with your child as you explore a new nature topic: woodpeckers! Learn through nature

# January Calendar

R = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member

play, crafts and other activities. Adult participation is required. Register for course #45088. Cost is \$8 R/\$10 NR. **CC**



**10 Late Night Friday** Students in grades 3-6 will have the Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., all to themselves 7-10 p.m. Enjoy video games, play in the gym, dance and listen to music while hanging out with friends. Pre-registration is encouraged; space is limited to the first 100 registrants. Register for course #45129; cost is \$7 R/\$10 NR. Fee at the door is \$10 R/\$15 NR beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**11 Bookworms – Mitten (Adult/child)** Curl up with a good book at the nature center! Read a new story and take a copy of the book home. Adult participation is required. Register for course #45101. Cost is \$10 R/\$12 NR. **CC**

**16 Aging Together: Pets and People** Research shows that time with pets can lower blood pressure, reduce depression, loneliness and improve overall health. Kathleen Anderson, owner of Custom Cuddles, will discuss concerns shared by pet owners 1-2:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room. Register for course #45870. FREE **SR**

**18 Saturday Story and Craft (Adult/child)** A naturalist reads a story and leads a craft activity based on the story's theme from 10-10:45 a.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Register for course #45104; cost is \$4 R/\$6 NR. **CC**

**20 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** The 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. See page 1 for more information on the event.

**21 School's Out! Looking for something fun to do when school is out?** Participate in crafts, games and other activities from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy. Wear play clothes and tennis shoes and bring a lunch and drink. Open to ages 5-11, register for course #45845. Cost is \$25 R/\$29 NR.

**21 Ski Liberty Snow Tubing** Teens: come hit the slopes at Ski Liberty from 2-8 p.m. Register for course #45405; cost is \$25 R/\$29 NR. Cost includes snow tubing, transportation and supervision. Pick-up and drop-off is from Julius West and Wood middle schools. Detailed information will be mailed upon registration.

**21 Understanding Your Pain** Uncover the reasons behind many common conditions, including causes of neck and back pain. The class will be held in the Azalea Room from 1-2:30 p.m. See how you can control your pain and enhance your quality of life without surgery. Register for course #45194. FREE **SR**

**21 Be Prepared – Workshop Series** Our Summer Job Readiness workshop offers tips on job searching, how to update your existing resume or create a new one, how to properly complete job applications and interview etiquette—skills your teen can take with them in the future. Open to students in grades 9-12; at the Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr. Register for course #45907 for the 10-11:30 a.m. session or for #45908 for the 12-1:30 p.m. workshop. Cost is \$2 R/\$4 NR.

**23 Wines of the World** Adults 21 and older can learn more about wines and how they are made from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

This workshop will cover major wine producing regions of leading countries in five continents, including France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Chile. Register for course #45772; cost is \$35 R/\$39 NR. **GM**



**23,25 Nature Tots – Bears (Adult/child)** Spend time with your child as a naturalist helps you explore a new nature topic: bears! Discover the wonders of bears through activities, hikes, crafts and stories. Adult participation is required; dress for the weather. For the Jan. 23 session, register for course #45089; for Jan. 25, register for #45090. Cost is \$8 R/\$10 NR. **CC**

**24,25,26,31-Feb.2 'An Inspector Calls' Presented by the Rockville Little Theatre** Come see this exciting "whodunit" tale when a family receives a call from a mysterious inspector. The show will have you guessing until the very end. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. See page 6 for more information. **FSF**

**26 Family Camp Day** Spend an afternoon with your child experiencing nature camp activities from 1-3:30 p.m. Your winter camp day will include hands-on activities, games, crafts and a hike. Dress for the weather; all participants must register. Register for course #45122; cost is \$5 R/\$7 NR. **CC**

**28 MELT** Come find out how three little balls can change your life from 7:15-8:45 p.m. This simple self-treatment will help your whole body feel better! Bring a yoga mat; MELT balls will be provided and the mini kit may be purchased from the instructor for

\$25. Register for course #45250; cost is \$30 R/\$35 NR. The class is open to ages 16 and older. **SR**

**28 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra (RRYO) Winter Concert** The RRYO will perform classical selections at 7:30 p.m. Comprised of music students from public and private schools in Montgomery County, the orchestra has rehearsed since September under the direction of Bryan Seith. The performance is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the show. **FSF**

**30 Create Magical, Traditional Stock** Come learn the secret to making the best soups, stews and sauces. Poultry, fish and beef stocks provide the rich foundation for exquisite, satisfying sauces and soups. The class is held from 7-9 p.m. and is open to those 18 and older. Register for course #45833; cost is \$21 R/\$28 NR. **SR**

**31 Seniors Trip – Maryland Live!** Seniors are invited on a trip to the Maryland Live! Casino at Arundel Mills Mall. Lunch is on your own with choices such as The Cheesecake Factory, Phillips Seafood, Bobby Flay's Burger Palace and more. The trip will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and departs from the Glenview Mansion. Register for course #45051; cost is \$32 M/\$40 NM/ \$46 NR. **SR**

## Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

**1 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.

**2 Environment Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the first Thursday of each month.

**8,22 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings are televised live on Rockville 11.

**11 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m. Meets the second Saturday of the month and is televised live on Rockville 11.

**14 Human Services Advisory Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of each month.

**15 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m. Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 621-A Southlawn Ln.

**16 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of each month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr.

**21 Rockville Seniors, Inc.** 1 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday each month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr.

**22 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. See page 3 to learn more about this commission.

**28 Traffic and Transportation Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

## Vacancies

To learn more about any board or commission, call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 or go to [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). The City is seeking applicants for:

- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Ethics Commission (5)
- Historic District Commission (1)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (2)
- Personnel Appeals Board (3)
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (2)
- Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) (4)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTING, VISIT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV)

## Vamos a Sacudir tu Verano - Campamentos más Destacados para 2014

Rockville ofrece más de 65 campamentos cerca de casa, donde sus niños se desenvolverán en un ambiente sano y divertido. Ofrecemos descuentos para aquellos que se inscriban temprano.

- Los nuevos campamentos que se celebrarán en el 2014 incluyen **Summer Blast Camp** (Campamento "Una explosión de verano"), el cual permite a los campistas inscribirse una semana o varias semanas durante el verano y ofrece juegos, manualidades, deportes, natación y eventos especiales. Es todo un día de diversión de 8:30 a.m. a 5:50 p.m.
- **Kidz Time** (Tiempo de los niños) mantendrá a los niños en actividad todo el día con caminatas, karate, car-



reras de obstáculos, natación y mucho más. Los campistas aprenderán acerca de la nutrición por medio de la preparación y consumo de sus propios bocadillos saludables.

- En el campamento de hockey de cam-

po/lacrosse para niñas, las jugadoras en todos los niveles de calificación pueden participar en el desarrollo de aptitudes en Welsh Park. Se dividirá en grupos a las campistas de

acuerdo con sus capacidades para formar parte de entrenamientos divertidos al mismo tiempo que aprenden a jugar mejor.

- Como novedad este año también se ofrecerá lo siguiente: los camp-

mentos del Centro de Ciencias de Rockville incluyen robótica, ciencias espaciales y astronomía, y geología y exploración.

- Otros campos especializados incluyen **natación para el campamento de patineta y el campamento de yoga para el desarrollo de niños.**

La guía de campamentos se encuentra disponible en el sitio web [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps) y las inscripciones dan inicio el 21 de enero a través del sitio web [www.rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov). Un descuento por matrícula temprana estará disponible hasta el 18 de marzo. Los campamentos se llenan rápidamente, así que asegúrese de inscribirse a tiempo. ✿



## Save Rainwater, Save Money

The City's RainScapes Rewards Program reimburses residents for undertaking activities that aid in stormwater management and bring attention to efforts to prevent or treat stormwater runoff.

Now, under the program's latest expansion approved by the Mayor and Council in December, residents can earn rebates for soil improvement and for removing impervious surfaces such as patios and private sidewalks.

Soil improvement involves loosening at least 9 inches of soil and adding 2 inches of compost. Loosening soil and removing impervious surfaces allows rain and melting snow to be absorbed into the ground. This replenishes the groundwater supply, rather than collecting pollutants as runoff into storm drains.

Available in January 2014, the new residential rebates include:

- \$2 per square foot of turf or sod replaced by soil improvement as described above and conservation landscaping - native plants that minimize polluted runoff and conserve water.
- \$3 per square foot of impervious surface removal (for example patios and back yard sidewalks) replaced by soil improvement and turf or sod.
- \$4 per square foot of impervious surface removal and replaced by soil improvement and conservation landscaping.
- The program continues to offer rebates for:
  - Installing one or more rain barrels to capture roof runoff – the rebate is based on the size of the rain barrel (\$1 per gallon).
  - \$150 per native tree planted.
  - \$1 per square foot of turf grass that is replaced by conservation landscaping only.

For more information on the RainScapes Rewards Program, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes).

## Gear Up to Enjoy Winter Biking

Kevin Belanger, the City's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, offers tips for winter bike riding:

- A good pair of gloves and a scarf are key.
- Biking in cold weather has an upside: You still get exercise, but you don't get very sweaty.
- Be careful on snow and ice. The City clears on- and off-street bicycle facilities, but patience is important.
- Make sure to have a white light in front and a red light in the rear of your bicycle for riding after dark.
- Take Capital Bikeshare for a test ride. The new bikesharing network has stations throughout Montgomery County, including 21 stations around Rockville. Costs range from a one-day membership for \$7 to a \$75 annual membership. The sturdy bikes have racks in the front that can hold a purse, backpack, or shopping bag. Bring your own helmet.

More information is available at City Hall and other City facilities and online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling).

## Learn What's Happening at Your Neighborhood Meeting

Rockville's Neighborhood Resources Division works to build strong partnerships with neighborhoods to find ways to improve City services and strengthen communities.

You can participate in your community by attending your neighborhood or homeowners association meetings. Upon availability, the division can coordinate City staff to attend your neighborhood meeting to share information about a range of issues. Neighborhood meetings in January are:

- Jan. 2 - New Mark Commons Home Association; Rockshire Association, Inc.
- Jan. 6 - Regents Square Condominium Association
- Jan. 14 - East Rockville Civic Association
- Jan. 15 - King Farm Citizens' Assembly
- Jan. 16 - West End Citizen's Association; Falls Grove Property Owners Association
- Jan. 21 - College Square Home Owners Association
- Jan. 28 - Twinbrook Citizens Association; Americana Centre Condominium Association.

For more information about these meetings, call 240-314-8340.

# Neighborhood Notes

## Meet Your Neighbor: Paul Stankus

*Meet Your Neighbor is a regular feature in Rockville Reports and on Rockville 11 designed to highlight the unique individuals that make our community a special place. To suggest someone for a future episode and article, email [meetyourneighbor@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:meetyourneighbor@rockvillemd.gov).*

While many know him as a board member of the King Farm Citizens' Assembly and an all-round active member of the community, Rockville resident Paul Stankus is also a rising children's book author.

He finds inspiration for his books from his

experiences as a first-time dad: "My stories are my attempts to record the sorrows, frustrations, joys and unmatched beauty of raising

a child with my wife, Candice," he says.

His first children's book, released in October is entitled "The Ripple of a Lie." The book illustrates what happens when a child "does the wrong thing for the right reasons." The lies are signified



by a raindrop.

Stankus's love of reading stems from his childhood passion of escaping to far-off lands in the pages of a book. But his writing career is also marked with the challenges of finding time to write. "Holding down a full-time job while raising a family makes it tough to actually put words to paper," he says. Despite the difficulties, there is no end in sight for Stankus's publications.

His son is Stankus's main muse but, as he inevitably grows older, here's what dad hopes he'll keep in mind: "No matter what transpires, we will always love him and are proud of the person he has become."

"The Ripple of a Lie" was read by Stankus at College Gardens Elementary School in December. In addition to speaking to classes, the author donates a portion of his book sales to local charities. Learn more about this Rockville resident on his website, [www.paulstankus.com](http://www.paulstankus.com). ❀



Photo credit: Judy Brookover

**ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS MADE A BIG IMPACT IN 2013...** *Volunteers make a positive impact on the quality of life enjoyed by Rockville residents, especially when it comes to being stewards of the environment. More than 350 volunteers dedicated more than 750 hours to helping the environment in 2013, cleaning streams, marking storm drains and serving on the City's Environment Commission. A look at volunteer efforts by the numbers this year: • 29 stream cleanups • 262 bags of trash collected • 358 storm drains marked • 1 stream monitoring training.*

*Volunteers are vital to the success of Rockville's sustainability initiatives and are particularly needed in early spring for stream adoptions, storm drain marking and stream monitoring. For more information or to get involved, email [environment@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:environment@rockvillemd.gov), call 240-314-8877 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment) and click on "Make a Difference."*



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the City of Rockville's website. If you don't already have a QR code reader on your phone, there are plenty of free apps you can download. When you have an app installed, point your phone's camera at the code and the website will appear in your phone's web browser.

## City Staff Awards Ceremony 2013

*continued from pg. 1...*

of Recreation and Parks.

Frederick Williford and Mamdouh Droubi of the Department of Public Works were honored for 35 and 30 years of service to the City, respectively.

Nineteen employees were recognized for 25 years of service; five for 20 years; 15 for 15 years; nine for 10 years; and 28 for five years.

In total, 79 employees were honored for more than 1,100 years of service to the residents of Rockville. Employees were also recognized with High Performance Organization (HPO) awards. These awards honor extraordinary service in one of four categories: leadership, cus-

tomers service, task/technical skills and/or teamwork. The recipients of this year's HPO awards are:

- Pablo Vidal-Vasquez, maintenance worker (streets), winner of the Bill Mason Award, which recognizes a hard-working, honest and dedicated employee who always goes the extra mile
- Christine Henry, acting director of Recreation and Parks
- Jim Woods, civil engineer II
- Kelly Mendelsohn, permit software support specialist and Clark Larson, GIS specialist
- Montrose Discovery Preschool Team
- Web Implementation Team

Learn more about what each department does by going to [www.rockvillemd.gov/departments](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/departments). ❀

## City Hall Closures

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- Glenview Mansion will be closed.
- Rockville Civic Center Park offices will be closed.
- Rockville Senior Center will be closed.
- The Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Thomas Farm Community Center and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will be open regular hours.

Parking fees at City-owned meters will be suspended on both holidays.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). ❀



Get Into It

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